RAJAYISABHA

Friday, 23rd *August,* 1985/1 *Bhadra,* 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the Clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we take up the agenda, I have to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Ng. Tompok Singh, an ex-Member of this House from the State of Manipur.

Shri Tompok Singh was born in Imphal and was educated at the Forest University. A dedicated social and political worker, Shri Tompok Singh was closely associated with several social, cultural and religious organisations in his home State. He was deeply interested in the cooperative movement and was Chairman of the Manipur Khadi and Village Industries Board. Shri Tompok Singh was a Member of this House from April, 1954 to April, 1956 and again from April, 1976 to April. 1984. Mild mannered and soft spoken, he was essentially a man of religion.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Ng. Tompok Singh.

I request Membars to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.]

MR. CHAIRMAN; Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Adverse exposure of textile workers in Delhi to Acid-Fumes

t*44l. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR, be pleased to state.-

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of textile workers have succumbed to the dreaded cotton dust diseaise and many workers are being exposed to various kinds of add-funes in subterranean electro-plat ing operations and in potteries, cera-milds, asbestos and lead-iprocessing plants in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what remedial ac tion Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) and (b) A State ment is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Delhi Administration have reported incidence of a few cases of Bys-sionosis among workers in textile mills and chrome ulcer among the workers in electroplating factories.

No case of death due to cotton dust disease (Byssionosis) among the textile workers have been reported by Delhi Administration. Delhi Administration have also stated that there is no subterranean electroplating factory registered under the Factories Act, 1948 in Delhi. No worker has been found to be suffering from occupational diseases in the manufacturing processes connected with potteries, ceramics, asbestos and in lead-processing industry. During the year 1984, 5 cases of BysSionosis and 4 cases of chrome ulcer have been detected by the Certifying surgeon in Delhi. There were also two more

@PreSviously Starred Question No. 321, transferred from the 14th August, 1985.

cases of chrome ulcer detected during the year 1985.

Byssionosis and Chrome Ulceration are occupational diseases notified in the Schedule under Sections 89 and 90 of the Factories Act, 1948. As per the Factories Act, when any worker in a factory contracts any disease specified in the Schedule, the management of the factory would have to send a notice thereof to the prescribed authorities. The Act also provides that if any of the diseases specified in the Schedule is detected by any medical practitioner, he would have to send a report *to* the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

In the interest of obtaining better safety standards in factories, Government, from time *to* time, has advised the State Governments and "Union Territory Administrations, including Delhi Administration, to strengthen the Factory inspectorate under the Factories Act and alfo to carry out more frequent inspections of all fac-tories where there' are health hazards.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, I have *gone* through the reply. The reply says that in 1934, five case$_s$ of Bys-slonsis were there and four cases of Chrome Ulceration were also there. In 1985 also there were two cases. Now the reply says that under the Factories Act, the factory owner is obliged to report these cases to the Government in the prescribed form. That i$_s$ one aspect. But there is another Act, that is, the Air Pollution Act, 1981. That Act provides that if there is any negligence on the part of the factory officials in taking adequate preventive measures, these official will be punishable. I would like to know whether the responsibility in such incidents has been fixed and how many persons have been proceeded against and in which factories such action is being taken by the Government. And secondly, I would like to know whether in these seven cases of exposure, these workers have been paid due compensation by the companies.

SHRI T. SANJAIAH: Sir, all are covered by the ESI Act and from the ESI Scheme, they get it. Then, the number of workers is 17,660; medically examined—179; cases where disease was deducted—5; factories 34; total number of workers in the 34 factories 808; number of workers medically examined—536. If there is violation by the management, we will definitely take action.

SHRI SUKIMAL SEN: Sir, are-cent survey conducted by the World Health Organisation reveals that Delhi is the third gravest city in the World. Only Lahore and Baghdad are ahead of Delhi. This is the position according to the WHO survey. Then there is also one reply yesterday to an unstarred question. There also , the Government says, according to the WHO studies on urban air pollution, in Delhi it is considerably high in certain parts of the city where there is industrial activity. I want to know whether it i$_s$ a fact that Shri Ram Chemicals and Hindustan Insecticides and other industrial units in the Capital were declared in February this year as engaged in dangerous operations exposing the workers to chlorine and other hazardous substances and whether another 700 potentially hazardous factories, majority of them dealing with chemicals and allied processes, were also identified, and what steps the Government have taken to protect the workers of these factories from being exposed to such industrial pollutant hazards.

SHI T. ANJAIAH: So far as Shri Ram Chemicals are concerned we are .awaiting the preliminary report and within a week I am going to have it and I shall place it on the ; Table of the House.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: When workers are suffering from occupational diseases or even in cases of small accidents inside the factories, there is a tendency on the part of the i employers to hush up the matter and

not report to the concerned authorities. The honourable Minister has stated in reply that during the year 1984 five cases and in 1985 four cases £ have been detected by the certifying surgeons in Delhi. I would like to ask the honourable Minister whether these cases have been initially reported by the employers concerned.

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: They have not given any report. The ESI has admitted it. We have examined all these cases.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, हाल के वर्षों में नये-नये रसायनों का इस्तेमाल हो रहा है, लेकिन हमारा जो फैक्ट्री इन्स्पैक्टोरेट है, वह उन रसायनों से अवगत नहीं है । तो क्या सरकार सोचती है कि अपने फैक्ट्री इंस्पैक्टर्स के लिये एक रिफ्रेशर कोर्स कराया जाये ताकि उनको नये-नये रसायनों के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त हो सके ? दूसरी बात यह है कि यह जो नये-नये रसायन हैं जिनके चलते नई-नई बीमारियां हो रही हैं उनकी वजह से कुछ नई इंडस्ट्रियल डिजीज बीमारियों में जोने की जरूरत है । क्या सरकार इन दोनों विषयों पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री टी० अंजैया : हम लोग पहले से इस बारे में एक्शन ले चुके हैं । बहुत-सी इस किस्म की इंडस्ट्रीज हैं जहां हैल्थ हैजार्ड्स हैं वहां कुछ एनफोर्समेंट हो रहा है और लोगों को पूरे तरीके से ट्रेनिंग देने की व्यवस्था है और जो लोग इसको बायलेट करते हैं उनके इम्प्रिजनमेंट की स्कीम भी हम लाना चाहते हैं ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : फैक्ट्री इंस्पैक्टर्स के रिफ्रेशर कोर्स के बारे में क्या हो रहा है ?

श्री टी० अंजैया : हम जानकारी कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: The statement says that the Centre has advised the State Governments and Union Territories including Delhi Administration *to* strengthen the factory inspectorate. Has the Minister received any feed-back report from the States and the Delhi Administration on what measures they have taken, how many prosecutions have been launched and what follow-up measures have been taken?

SHRI T. ANJAIAH: As I said just now, the report is awaited and it is going to be placed on the Table of the House.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : माननीय मंत्री जी जो बता रहे हैं वह बड़ी फैक्टरियों की बाबत है जो कागज पर लेबर ला के तहत आती है । मैं मिसाल के तौर पर बताना चाहता हूं कि मेरे एक साथी ने मेरठ में कैंची के काम करने वाले कारीगरों का सर्वे किया उनकी अमूमन औसत मौत की दर 45 साल है । कैंची का काम करने वाले लोगों की नाक में लोहे का महीन बुरादा जाता है और 45 साल के होते-होते औसतन उनके घरों की औरतें विधवा हो जाती हैं । दो-चार कारीगर यह काम करते हैं और उन पर लेबर ला का कोई कानून लाग नहीं होता । उनको कोई प्रोटेक्शन कहीं नहीं है । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप ऐसा कोई इन्तजाम करेंगे कि जिसके चलते जहां बड़ी फैक्ट्रीज नहीं हैं, छोटे-छोटे लेवल पर मजदूर काम करते हैं, कम संख्या में, वहां उनका एक्सप्लायटेशन रोका जा सके और उनकी सुरक्षा हो सके ।

श्री टी० अंजैया : यह बात लिख कर देंगे तो मैं जरूर एक्शन लूंगा ।

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण : क्या सरकार मैनेजमेंट को हिदायत करेगी कि ऐसी फैक्ट्रीज के अंदर पीरियोडिकल मेडिकल चैक-अप एम्पलाईज का किया जाये ?

श्री टी० अंजैया : जरूर । आप जैसा कहेंगे वैसा हम करेंगे ।